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CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF ARIZONA
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

REDACTED FOR
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

United States of America,
Plaintiff,
v.
Elyse Hongeva,
Defendant.

CR06-0380PCT SMM
(DRD)

INDICTMENT

VIO: 18 U.S.C. § 666(a)(1)(A)
Theft Concerning Programs
Receiving Federal Funds
(Count 1)

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:

At all times material to this Indictment:

1. Defendant ELYSE HONGEVA ("HONGEVA"), was an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation Indian Tribe.

2. From on or about 1990 through on or about October, 2005, defendant HONGEVA was employed with the Navajo Nation Work Force Development Program ("NWD"), specifically in the Western Agency located in Tuba City, Arizona. NWD was a department or division of the Navajo Nation Department of Human Resources. Funds for NWD came from grants issued under the Workforce Investment Act ("WIA") through the United States Department of Labor. Since 1993, defendant HONGEVA was an accounting technician for NWD, and was responsible for keeping track of NWD funds paid to or refunded from educational institutions.

3. On or about September 20, 2002, defendant HONGEVA opened a business checking account (# XXX-XXXX063) at the Wells Fargo Bank in Tuba City, Arizona, and had the account named "Navajo Nation-Work Force Development." Defendant HONGEVA was the

1 only person with signature authority on this account.

2 4. From on or about September 20, 2002, through on or about July 19, 2005, defendant
3 HONGEVA wrongfully deposited into this Wells Fargo account approximately sixty-one (61)
4 reimbursement checks totalling approximately \$191,152.48, which funds came from refund
5 payments of NWD WIA money from educational institutions. From on or about September 23,
6 2002, to on or about July 26, 2005, defendant HONGEVA wrongfully made from this Wells
7 Fargo account approximately two hundred one (201) withdrawals totalling approximately
8 \$187,883.00, which funds were used by defendant HONGEVA to pay for personal and family
9 expenses.

10
11 **COUNT ONE**
12 **Theft Concerning Programs Receiving Federal Funds**
13 **(18 U.S.C. § 666(a)(1)(A))**

14 5. The factual allegations in paragraphs 1-4 of this Indictment are incorporated by reference
15 and re-alleged as though fully set forth herein.

16 6. On or about September, 2002, through on or about July, 2005, in the District of Arizona
17 and elsewhere, defendant ELYSE HONGEVA, being an agent of an Indian tribal government,
18 the Navajo Nation, which received benefits in excess of \$10,000 for the fiscal years 2002, 2003,
19 2004, and 2005, through a federal grant program and other forms of federal assistance,
20 embezzled, stole, obtained by fraud, and otherwise without authority, knowingly converted to
21 the use of any person other than the rightful owner, and intentionally misapplied property,
22 namely money, funds and assets of the Navajo Nation Work Force Development Program. The
23 money, funds, assets, and property were owned by and under the care, custody, and control of
24 the Navajo Nation, and had a value of at least \$5,000.

1 In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 666(a)(1)(A).

2
3 A TRUE BILL

4 /S/

5
6 FOREPERSON OF THE GRAND JURY
Date: April 11, 2006

7 PAUL K. CHARLTON
8 United States Attorney
District of Arizona

9
10 /S/

11 PETER SEXTON
Assistant U.S. Attorney